1st August 1933]

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is the order of the district board or of the President of the board? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" It is the unanimous resolution of the district board."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" How many Mappilla members are on the district board? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" A number of them."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—" The hon. Minister stated that the question is under the consideration of the Government. May I ask how long will it take for the Government to come to a conclusion? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I cannot make a prophecy; as quickly as we can."

Excise

Proposals for the reorganization of the Excise Advisory Committees.

* 23 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any proposals to reorganize the Excise Advisory Committees; and

(*b*) if so, what they are and when they are likely to come into effect?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) With reference to the suggestions made by certain hon. Members in the course of the budget debate on the 'Excise' demand in the Legislative Council on 13th March 1933, the Commissioner of Excise has been asked to examine the question of the enlargement of the powers of Excise Advisory Committees. His proposals are awaited.

Number of liquor shops closed as a measure of prohibition.

* 24 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the number of liquor shops is that remains closed now in each district as a measure of prohibition;

(*b*) whether prohibition was tried in complete taluks and districts and, if so, where;

(*c*) how many liquor shops have again been reopened in Salem district in April last and on what grounds;

(*d*) whether the Government have issued strict instructions to the Excise officials in the matter of putting down illicit manufacture and illicit sales of liquor; and

(*e*) if so, what they are?

A.—(a) & (c) The Government have not the statistics but have called for them.

(b) All arrack shops have been closed in Shiyali and Tiruturaipundi taluks of the Tanjore district and Tiruvadanai and Paramakudi taluks of the Ramnad district. All arrack shops were closed in Tenkasi taluk of the Tinnevelly district and the Auttur taluk (Salem), but have now been reopened as the experiment was a failure. All arrack and toddy shops were closed in parts of the taluks of Trichengodu and Namakkal and of the sub-taluk of Rasipur in the Salem district but have now been reopened as the experiment was a failure. In the Nilgiris district no liquor may be sold to any member of the hill tribes except on a medical certificate.

(d) & (e) The officers of the Excise Department are by the Excise Manual made responsible for the prevention of offences against the Excise laws.

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" Will the hon. Minister be pleased to make a detailed statement to this House in which respects this experiment of closing the arrack shops in the Tenkasi taluk and of closing toddy shops in the Rasipuram taluk, has proved a failure? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" The information is in the Administration Report; I have also given the information in detail before."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—" May I know if the hon. Minister for Excise confesses that all measures intended to introduce prohibition as per the Legislative Council resolution have proved a failure? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" Some of them!"

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to repeat what he says he has stated on a previous occasion? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" It will take about half an hour; I cannot give the information off-hand."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" It is not possible to understand what is meant by the statement that it has proved a failure, without some explanation."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" If the hon. Member will give a notice of a question I will answer it."

Toddy-drawers of the East and West Godavari districts.

* 25 Q.—Mr. G. Sriramulu: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are two sets of toddy-drawers called sweet toddy-drawers and fermented toddy-drawers in the East and West Godavari districts;